

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an input means unit for inputting first image data and icon image data;

a determining means unit for determining a display position of the icon image;

and

a display control means unit for superimposing one of the first image and the icon image on the other and displaying the first and icon images on a monitor such that the icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining means unit,

wherein the determining means unit determines successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image according to a predetermined shift pattern selected from a plurality of shift patterns, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of 1 to 5 pixels from a predetermined position.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an instruction means unit for instructing display of the icon image on the monitor,

wherein the determining means unit determines a display position of the icon image according to an instruction by the instruction means unit.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage ~~means~~ unit for calculating and storing an accumulated display time in respective display positions determined by the determining ~~means~~ unit,

wherein the determining ~~means~~ unit determines that a position where the accumulated display time is minimum among the respective display positions is a display position of the icon image.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image generation ~~means~~ unit for generating an object image,

wherein the display control ~~means~~ unit controls display such that the object image generated by the image generation ~~means~~ unit is superimposed on the first image as the icon image and displayed.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image size conversion ~~means~~ unit for expanding or reducing the icon image,

wherein the display control ~~means~~ unit controls display such that the icon image expanded or reduced by the image size conversion means is superimposed on the first image.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the image size conversion means unit expands or reduces the first image, and the display control means unit displays the first and icon images expanded or reduced by the image size conversion means unit on an identical screen of the display means.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

an input step for inputting first image data and icon image data;

a determining step for determining a display position of the icon image; and

a display control step for superimposing one of the first image and the icon image on the other and displaying the first and icon images on a monitor such that the icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining step;

wherein in the determining step, determining successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image according to a predetermined shift pattern selected from a plurality of shift patterns, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of 1 to 5 pixels from a predetermined position.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

an instruction step for instructing display of the icon image on the monitor,

wherein in the determining step, a display position of the icon image is determined according to an instruction issued in the instruction step.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a storage step for calculating and storing an accumulated display time in
respective display positions determined in the determining step,

wherein in the determining step, a position where the accumulated display time is
minimum among the respective display positions is determined as a display position of the icon
image.

13-26. (Cancelled).